INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

PAKISTAN PROGRAM

1988

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For more than fifty years, IRC has been helping people from all over the world who have fled persecution and violence in their homelands. IRC assists refugees in countries of first asylum and also in the United States. Currently, IRC has programs in Thailand and Hong Kong for refugees from IndoChina; in The Sudan and Malawi for refugees from Africa; in Costa Rica and El Salvador for refugees in Central America; in Europe to assist refugees fleeing from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union; and in Pakistan IRC is helping to provide relief to over three million Afghans who have fled the Soviet invasion of their country.

The IRC Pakistan program has been assisting Afghan refugees in the fields of health, education and self-reliance for the past eight years. The majority of these refugees are from the Afghan provinces bordering Pakistan. It is not known when they will return to Afghanistan. However, when they do, IRC will be prepared to help them.

IRC survey teams will now be going to Afghanistan to assess the condition of roads, irrigation systems, health care and education. They will also examine the extent of fighting and the prevalence of mines. These surveys, in conjunction with the knowledge IRC has obtained in working with the Afghans for the past eight years, will serve as the planning basis for future reconstruction work.

Additionally, part of IRC's effort will be to train Afghans in areas of expertise already identified as being required for repatriation and reconstruction. IRC has over 1,000 trained employees, 80% of whom are Afghan refugees. The goal is to upgrade their skills and use their talents to train more Afghans. Furthermore, technical experts are now being hired to assist the Afghans during this training and planning phase.

IRC's projects in Pakistan have been developed with the full participation of the Afghan people. The Afghans working in these programs are some of the most dedicated and talented people in the refugee community. What they have done in Pakistan can also be done in Afghanistan.

The following pages give a brief description of what IRC has accomplished through the combined efforts of the Afghans, the local Pakistani staff and our donors and friends.



SELF-RELIANCE

IRC's Self-Reliance Programs help Afghan refugees support themselves and avoid dependence on aid by enhancing development work in the refugee camps and providing paid employment for refugees. Over 20,000 families directly benefit from the self-reliance programs through employment and increased agricultural production, and many thousands more benefit from construction projects that improve living conditions in the camps. As the refugees return to their country, the self-reliance programs will play a major role in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, in 1988 alone, will have constructed nearly 50 schools, clinics, and storage facilities, as well as maintain approximately 354 others. It will also upgrade or maintain over 120 kilometers of camp secondary roads and pathways. This program employs up to 500 people each month.

As the reconstruction of Afghanistan gets underway, the construction program will shift its operations to perform urgent repairs of Afghanistan's irrigation systems, repair and upgrade access roads to villages, and construct schools and clinics. The program will also be involved in the training of foremen and engineers for construction projects inside Afghanistan.

THE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM has benefitted more than 16,000 families through its four agricultural projects: the kitchen gardening seed distribution and technical support project; the distribution of laying chickens; veterinary care; and fruit and shade tree distribution. The program enhances refugee diet, as well as releasing the refugees from dependency on food handouts. IRC plans to help Afghanistan regain its pre-war agricultural self-sufficiency by engaging in the supply of agricultural supplies and implements to farmers. The veterinary project will be important in replenishing domestic animals, and the forestry program will work to reverse the deforestation of the country.

THE HANDICRAFTS PROGRAM provides a rare opportunity for Afghan refugee women to directly earn income. Around 300 women now participate by selling their embroidery and tailoring work. In Afghanistan, the program may be able to provide a bridge between local producers and the market, informing them of what is demanded and bringing their products out for sale.

THE BUSINESS INCENTIVES PROGRAM provides assistance to 40 small refugee businesses, helping Afghan families gain a source of income that is self-maintaining without the presence of aid agencies. In Afghanistan, this program will help stimulate village and city economies by providing credit for new and expanding businesses.

THE IRC PRINTING PRESS employs 57 people and grossed US $130,000 in sales in the first half of 1988. The bulk of its production is school books for Afghan children, and the remainder consists of forms, stationery, manuals, etc. The press is fully supported by its sales. When Afghanistan is free, IRC plans to move its press to Jalalabad or Kabul in Afghanistan.

MEDICAL

The first of the IRC relief programs in Pakistan, the Medical Program began in July, 1980 with two medical teams. Since that time the program has grown exponentially and now operates eleven health units in eleven refugee camps. In 1985, IRC was asked to also provide sanitation and public health services for these eleven camps. Thus, the IRC Medical Program has become a fully integrated medical service providing both health care and training to over 180,000 refugees.

THE ELEVEN MEDICAL UNITS are now receiving over 500,000 patient visits yearly. As well as providing diagnosis and treatment for a wide range of illnesses, the units have also trained scores of refugees as clinical assistants. These trained people will be able to help their own communities when they return to Afghanistan.

ELEVEN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTERS are serving the special health needs of children under five and pregnant and nursing women. The Centers are now receiving 20,000 visits of young children each month who are accompanied by their mothers. Through this program more women are receiving exposure to health concerns essential to nurturing a healthy family. This will assist in improving the health status of a nation which has traditionally had one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world.

THE ANTE-NATAL OUTREACH PROGRAM, organized in 1987 to augment the work being done in the Maternal and Child Health Centers, provides public health education to groups of women and children in a community setting. The "grass-roots" approach used in this program is entirely appropriate to village life in Afghanistan and can easily be initiated by refugee women once they are able to return home.

THE MEDICAL REFERRAL PROGRAM assists those refugees who are in need of medical attention which the field units cannot provide. Two hundred refugees per month, suffering from a wide range of disorders, are brought to Peshawar on the IRC ambulance and referred to hospitals in the major cities of the Northwest Frontier Province.

THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PROGRAM began in 1986 and has now reached its initial goal of training 700 volunteer health workers. Each worker is responsible for a cluster of thirty families and connects those families with all the medical services offered through IRC. These men will be able to provide basic health care in their own villages and linkages with nearby medical facilities when the refugees return to Afghanistan. The program is now gearing up to train an additional 1,000 health workers.

THE FEMALE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PROGRAM has trained over 500 women to safely assist in home births and to provide public health education to women. Efforts are underway to train an additional 500 women by the end of 1988. With their male counterparts, these women will be able to assist families when they return to Afghanistan.

THE SANITATION PROGRAM has trained refugee sanitarians who help refugees build latrines, improve their water supply and also provide public health education. Almost half the refugees IRC serves now have personal latrines in their compounds. Efforts have increased to train refugees in basic sanitation engineering techniques (particularly in the area of water supply) so as to better prepare them for village reconstruction.

MOTHER CHILD CENTERS is the newest of the IRC medical programs. Started at the end of 1987 its purpose is to enhance the health and self-esteem of women and their young children. This program will be further integrated with the Maternal and Child Health Centers so that more mothers can receive life-saving health care information and education.

HEALTH EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

The Health Education Resource Center began with a mandate to act as a collection center and producer for health education materials. It is also a coordinating entity with other voluntary organizations who produce materials for the Afghan refugees in the Northwest Frontier Province. Since its inception HERC has developed a resource library with English, Dari, Pushto and Urdu materials. It has also produced booklets, posters, flip charts, slide shows and audio tapes on health education topics in Dari and Pushto. A new project involves the development of health education materials for Afghan school children both in the N.W.F.P. and inside Afghanistan.

HEALTH MATERIALS GENERATION FOR AFGHAN SCHOOL CHILDREN. HERC has translated twelve childrens' stories into Dari and Pushto. It has developed health education readers for 1st and 2nd grades and 3rd and 4th grade readers are in progress. HERC is also exploring the development of flip charts to accompany readers, as well as games and other activities.

HEALTH MATERIALS GENERATION FOR REFUGEE CAMPS AND INSIDE AFGHANISTAN. HERC will be in charge of the development of thousands of silk-screened health education posters. The Center will also be responsible for the improvement of existing health education materials and the development and pretesting of new ones in coordination with health bureaus of the Pakistani Government and other voluntary agencies. These materials will be suitable for transport inside Afghanistan where they can serve as the basis for health education in villages.

EDUCATION

The IRC Education Programs assist Afghans who aspire to be future leaders and managers. Through a variety of educational projects, refugees are acquiring skills they can use after repatriation. These community-based programs are created in response to requests from Afghans and administered by them.

THE TEACHER TRAINING & TEXTBOOK PROGRAM, the first IRC educational project, has resulted in Afghan educators training over 550 teachers and developing and printing 17 science and math texts for high school students. The program recently expanded to include Afghan-language and English teacher training and will continue to meet the need for teacher training and improved textbooks for a free Afghanistan.

THE EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOL OF THE SCIENCES provides Afghan boys, admitted by examination, a rigorous secondary-school training to prepare them for higher education. As the need for young men with technical and scientific skills will increase as reconstruction gets underway, the Experimental School will remain crucial to this undertaking.

THE MALALAI HIGH SCHOOL, one of a handful of secondary schools for young Afghan women, grew from controversial beginnings and thrived -- student enrollment has increased from 20 to 88 in a little more than a year. The training these young women receive will enable them to serve the women and children of Afghanistan when they return home.

THE INTERPARTY SCHOOL PROGRAM, five schools administered by Afghan groups, receives materials, quality-monitoring and teacher training from IRC. These schools have shown measurable improvements in the quality of education provided to the approximately 2,500 students enrolled. At a recent seminar, staff from these schools expressed the hope that IRC will continue teacher training inside Afghanistan.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM, established in 1985, has become the largest language training center for refugees in Pakistan with 1,005 men and 215 women enrolled in regular programs and more than 200 students enrolled in outreach courses. The demand for the program remains unabated as Afghans with English skills continue to follow advanced studies and find jobs serving their countrymen.

THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROJECT expands a program started in 1987 to provide books and teaching aids to schools that receive little or no institutional support. The program can now provide educational support to 18,000 boys and girls. Because it supports community-administered classes, this program can reach children - especially girls - who cannot participate in education provided by outsiders.

THE YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAM provides literacy and technical training to youth and adults in the Hangu-Thal camps. The programs coordinate with the Community Health Worker and Self-Reliance Programs to train teachers and provide technical training, especially to orphaned youth.

HIGHER EDUCATION for young Afghans has been a focus since 1987 and continues to expand in these fields:

THE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING PROGRAM, with 16 students enrolled in its three year program, has completed its first term of training and an apprenticeship in refugee construction programs. This program, administered by former members of the Faculty of Engineering in Kabul, aims to produce skilled engineers with a firm grounding in design, theory and practical training who can help plan for reconstruction.

THE TEACHERS INSTITUTE has begun introductory courses in math, science, and methodology for 49 students who competed successfully for a place in this two-year training program. These new teachers, drawn from the camps as well as Peshawar, will be able to provide an effective education to middle and secondary school students throughout Afghanistan once the refugees return.

THE JOURNALISM PROGRAM was initiated because of the students' desire to tell the world the plight of Afghanistan. Almost 40 men and 20 women are learning journalistic techniques, improving their communication skills and acquiring habits of objective reporting that they will be able to utilize in present and future interactions with the world community.

THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TRAINING PROGRAM is a new IRC project that offers in-service training to already employed refugees and resistance leaders as well as a broader curriculum for twelfth-grade graduates. This program aims to hone the skills of Afghan administrators so they can independently manage projects, personnel and offices; skills that will be sorely needed during the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

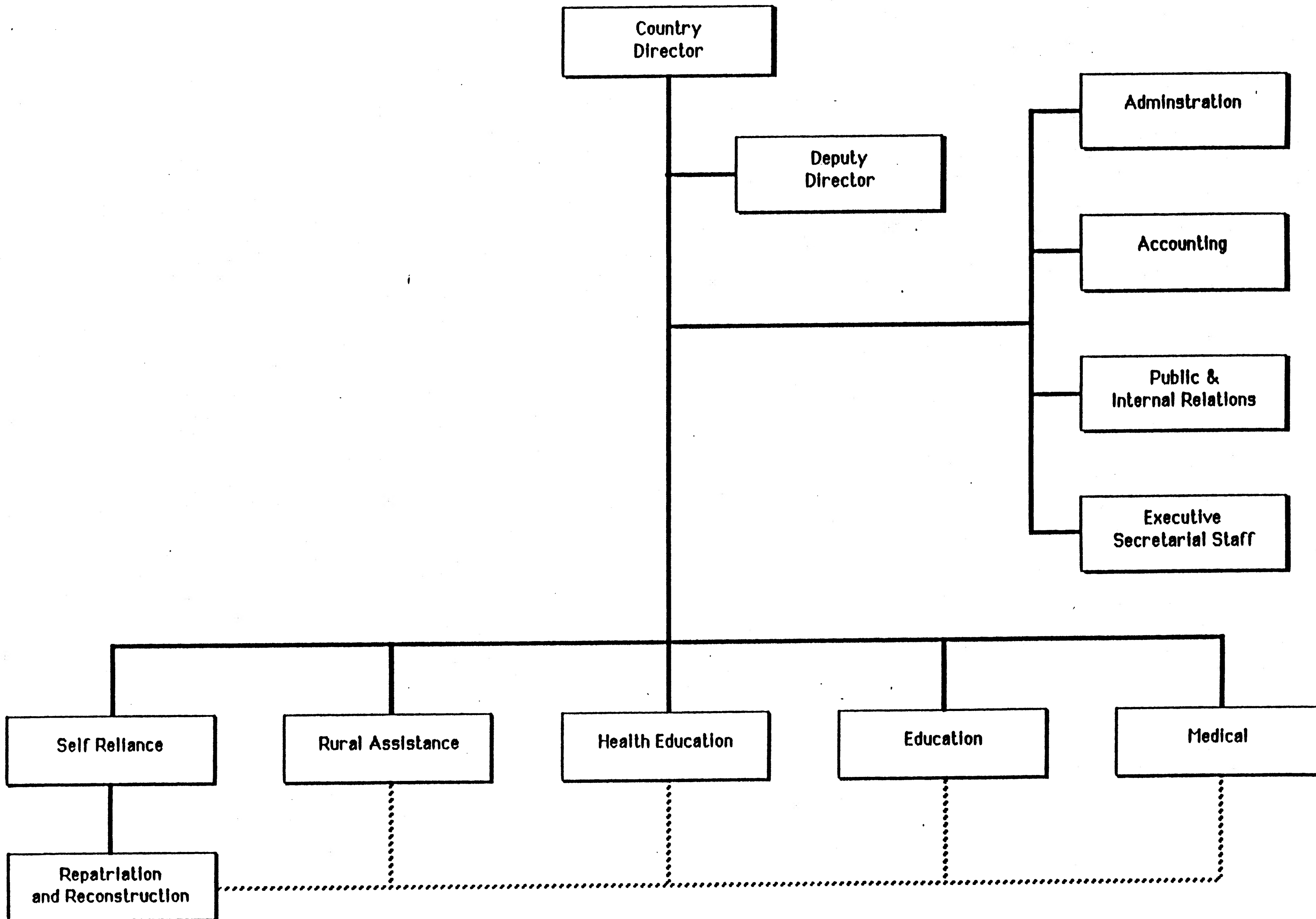
THE WOMEN'S HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM surveyed Afghan women and almost 90% requested higher education. One result is a program focusing on medical translation and administrative skills which will begin this fall. IRC is proposing that in early 1988 the medical translators trained will immediately put their skills to use in a medic training program for women administered cooperatively by various voluntary agencies.

A CONSTRUCTION FOREMEN TRAINING PROGRAM, planned by an Afghan Advisory Board, will help technical personnel learn the skills needed to supervise the clearing of mines and the construction of basic roads, buildings and water systems. These technical foremen will be trained to work in the rural provinces of Afghanistan on the front lines of reconstruction.

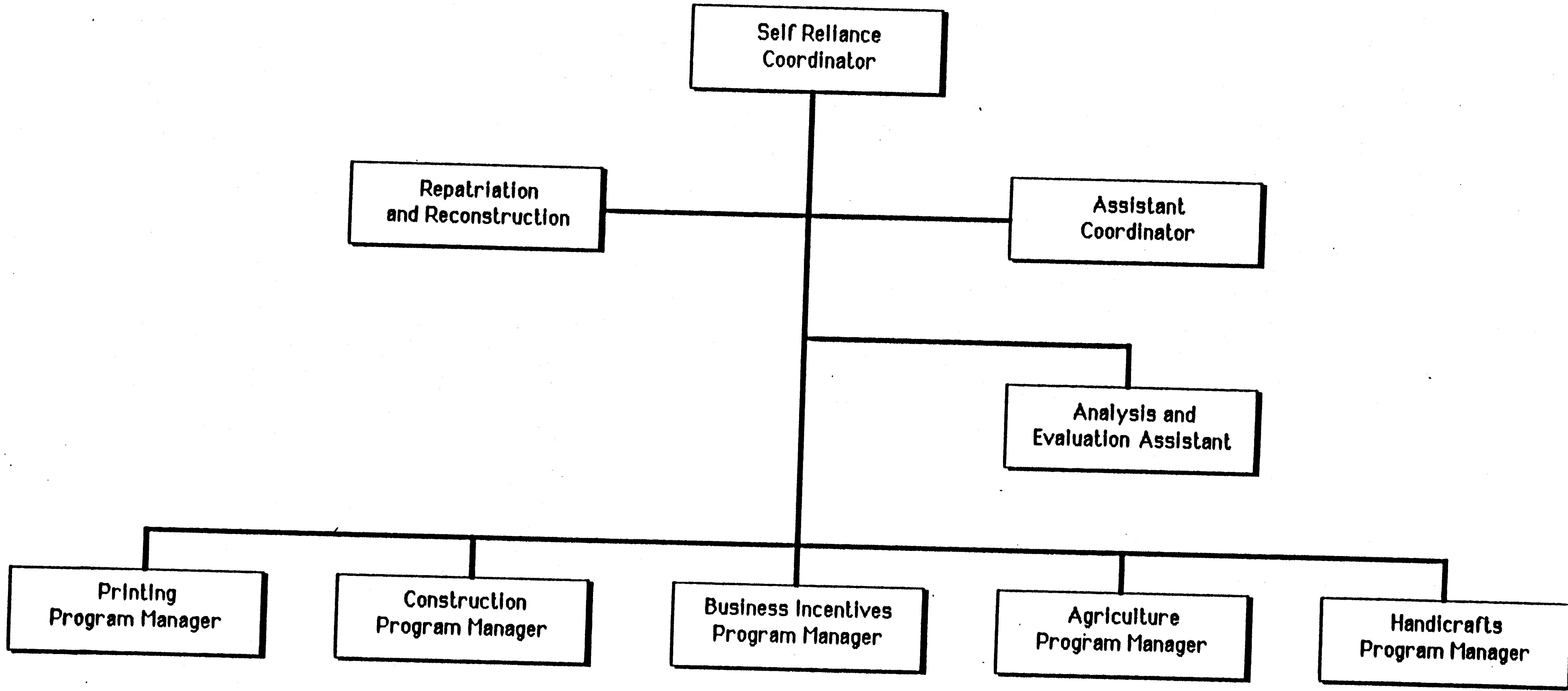
RURAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The goal of the Rural Assistance Program (RAP) is to assist war affected Afghans who have remained in Afghanistan and the Afghans who are returning to their villages from the Pakistani refugee camps. The Rural Assistance Program provides grants to qualified private voluntary organizations to support rural assistance activities, increase agricultural productivity and rural income. RAP oversees and administers these grants. The projects implemented by the various private voluntary organizations cover almost all the regions of Afghanistan. Such projects include the distribution of cash for food and provision of other basic necessities to the neediest, support of agricultural needs and development, reconstruction of irrigation canals, roads and farms and the assistance needed by refugees who wish to return to their homeland.

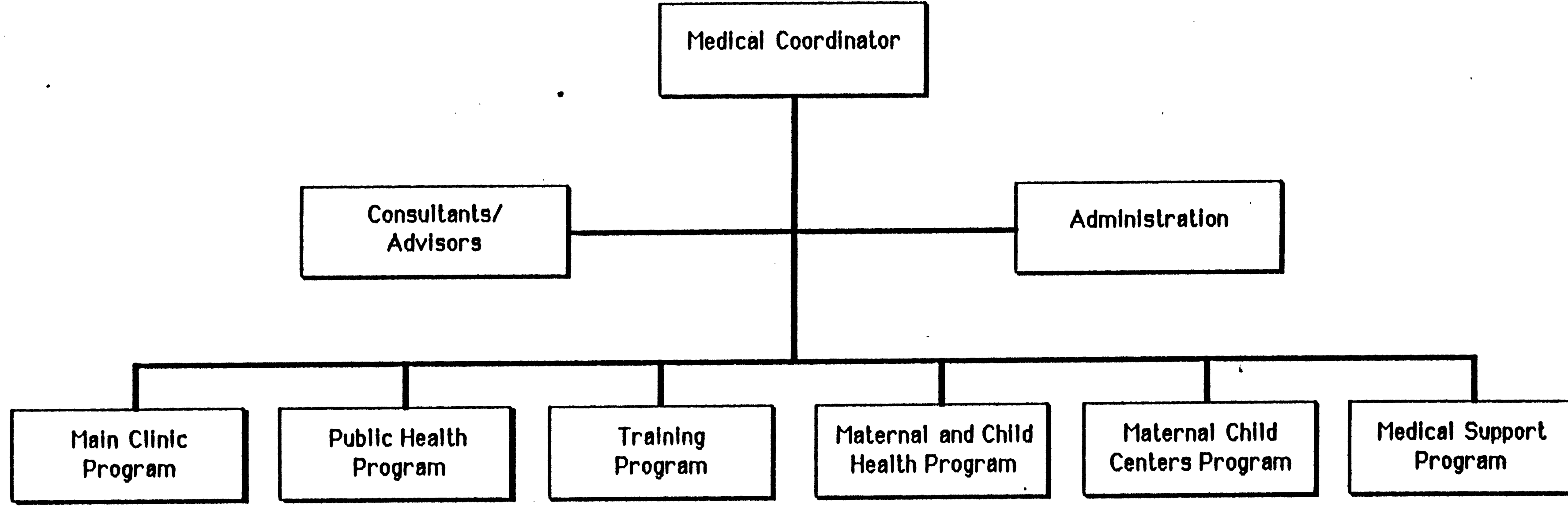
Administrative Structure



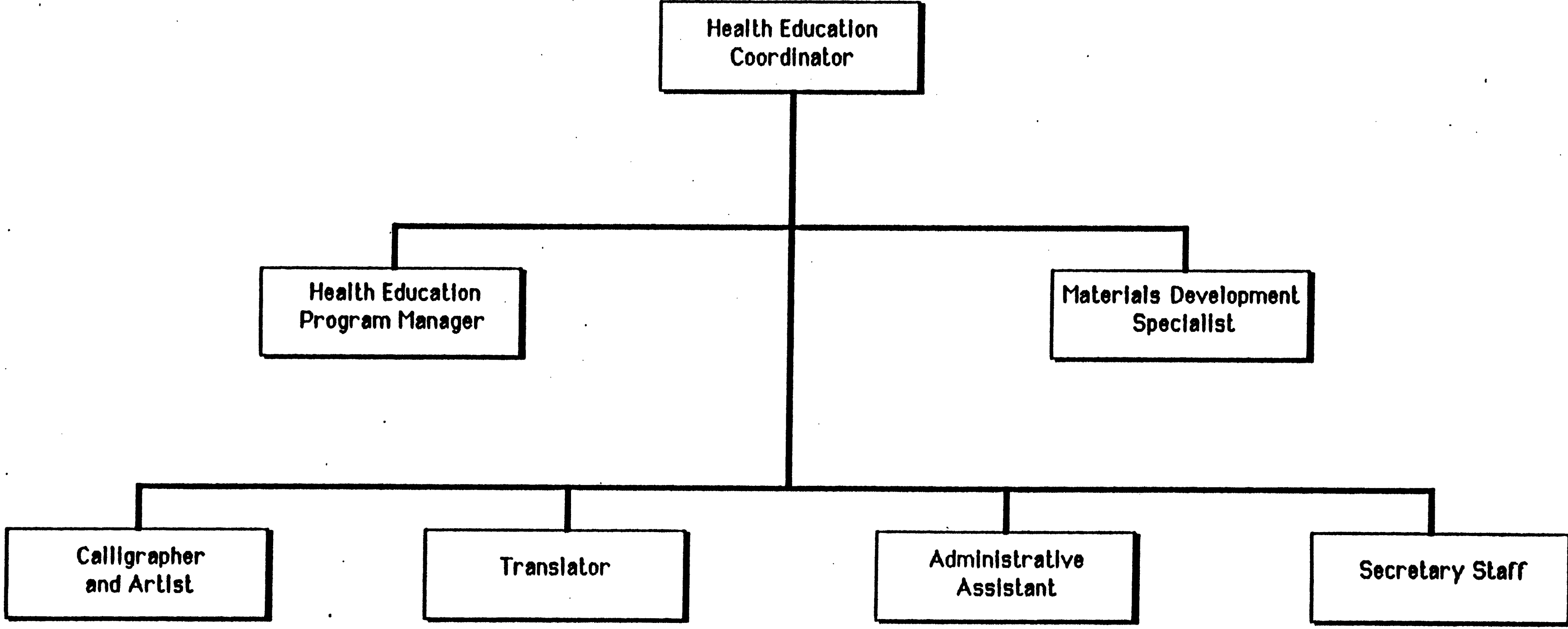
Self Reliance Programs



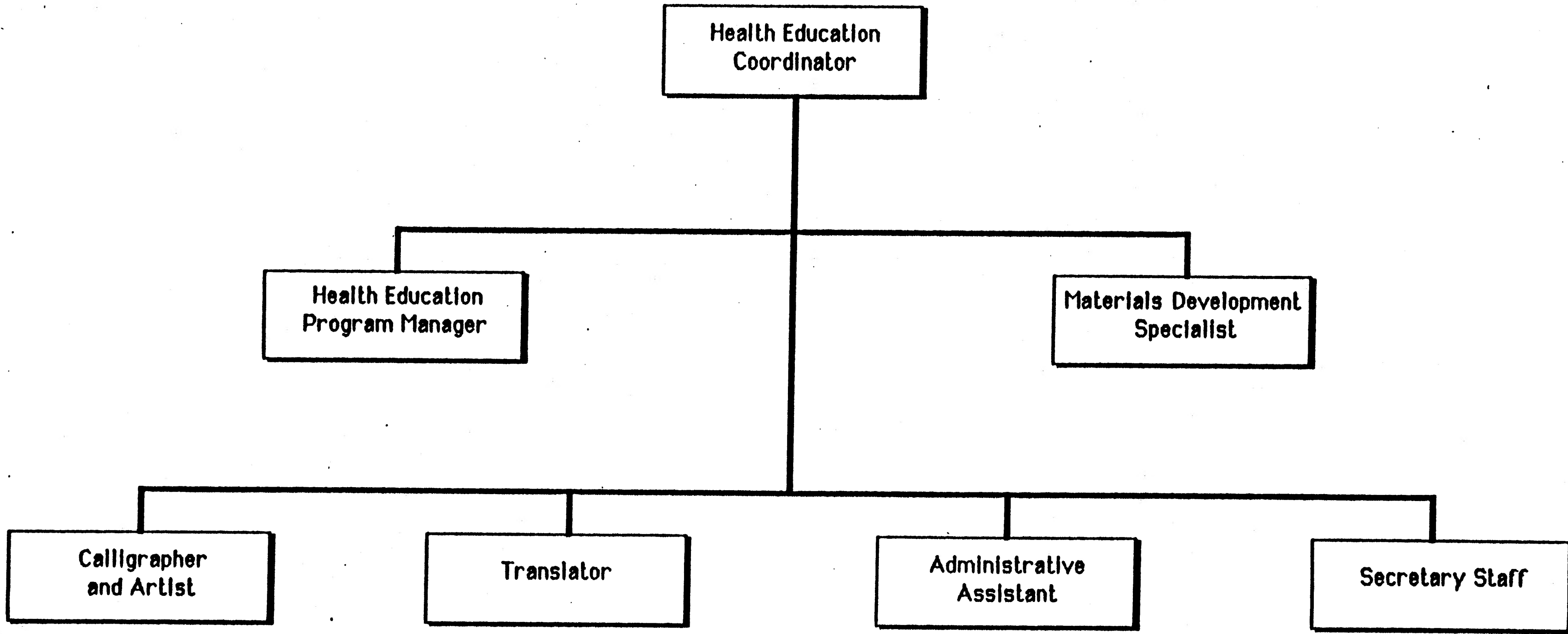
Medical Programs



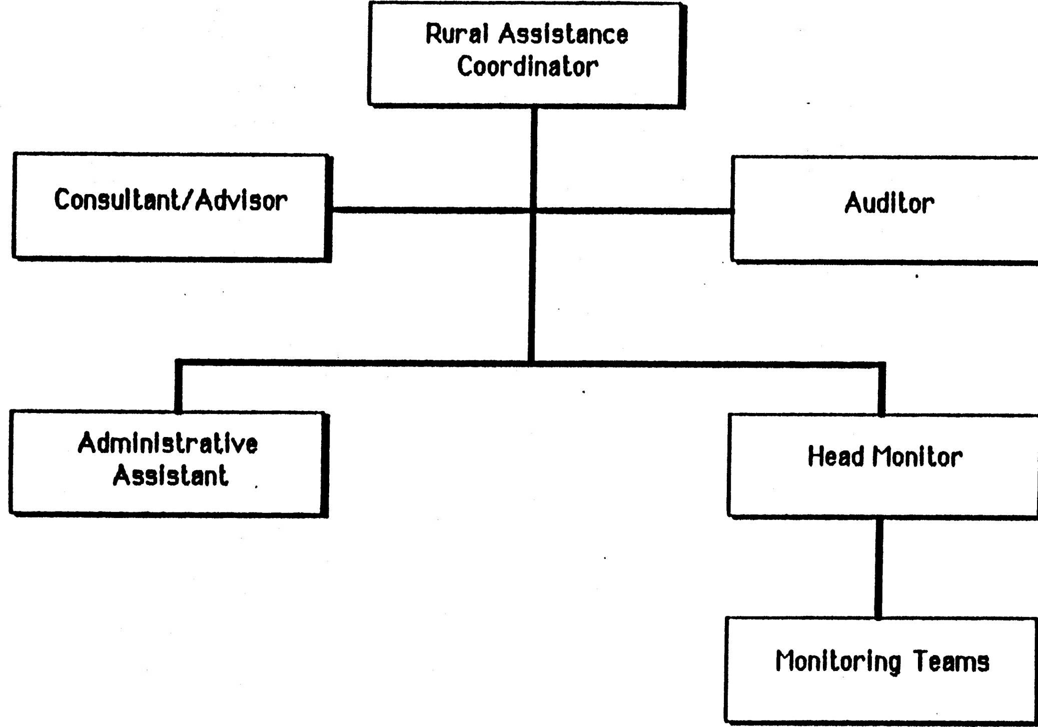
Health Education Programs

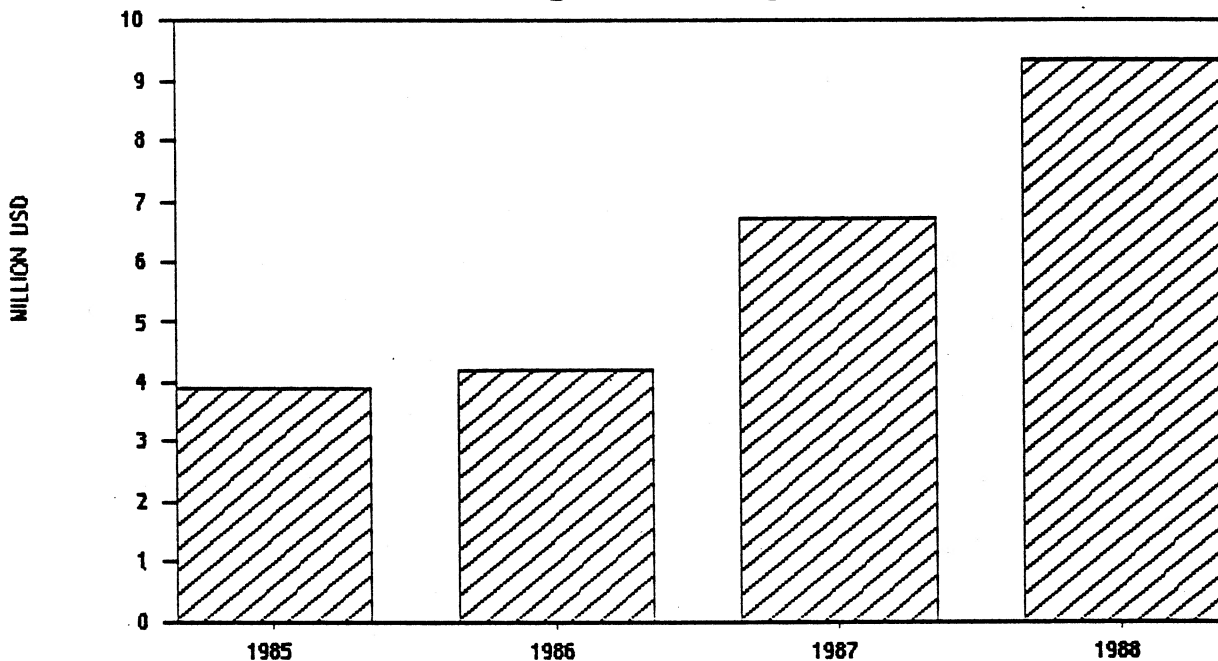


Health Education Programs



Rural Assistance Program





Partial List of Contributors:

U.S. Government: U.S.A.I.D.
Dept. of State; Bureau of Refugee Program
U.S. Information Service

United Nations: U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees
U.N.I.C.E.F.
World Food Programme

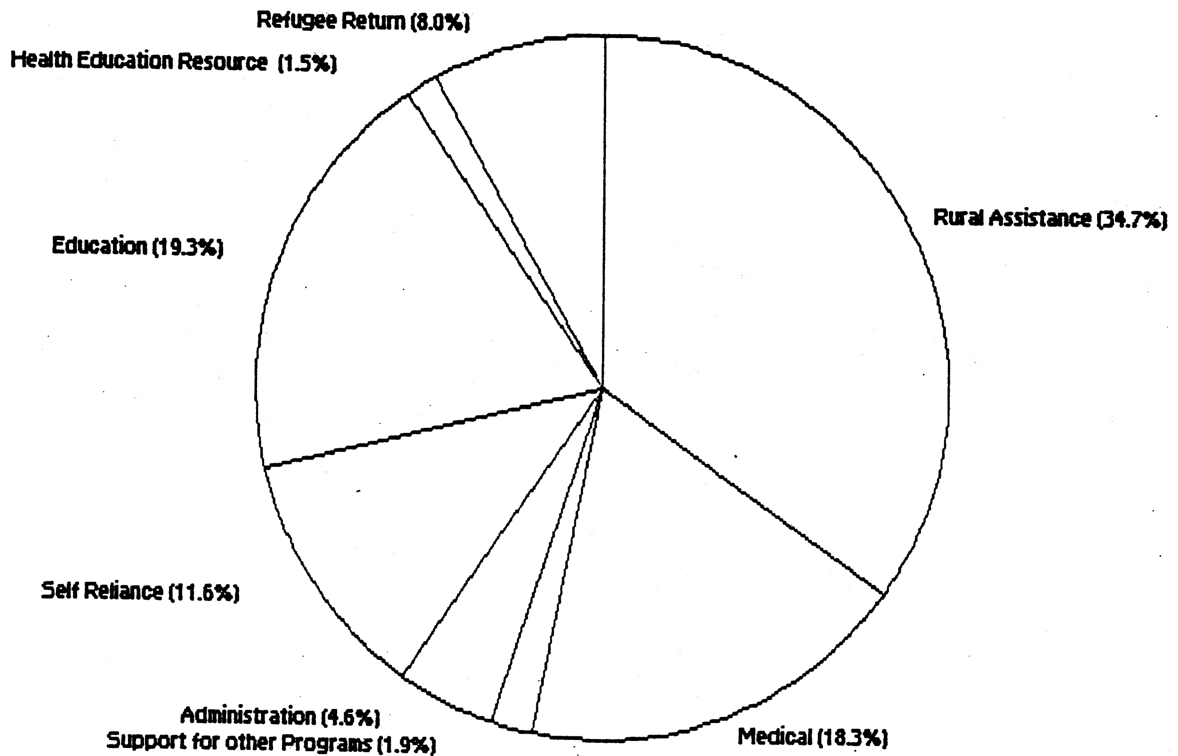
Others: Aid for International Medicine, Inc.-U.S.A.
Australian Embassy-Pakistan
Austrian Relief Committee
Bernard Van Leer Foundation-Netherlands
Canadian Embassy-Pakistan
Commissioner for Afghan Refugees-Pakistan
International Fund-U.S.A.
Le Brun Foundation-U.S.A.
Norwegian Church Aid
Norwegian Committee for Afghanistan
Norwegian Refugee Council
Operation Day's Work-Norway
Refugee International-Japan
Stichting Vluchteling-Netherlands

The above list also does not cover the many,many others who through their financial resources and their time help us to provide service and aid to the Afghans.

Financial Information

Estimated Projection for the 1988 Budget IRC Program for Afghans

By Program:



Total: 9.33 million USD

By Donors:

